Oscar Asche wrote the book and rey Fletcher composed, the music. e smoothness of the first night permance entitles E. Lyall Swete to all a credit which should go to a good

ob.

Of its kind "Mecca" is absolutely rest rate. We must confess, however, hat we find drama generally more arcesting in plays which require something less than three or four hundred ersons. As a theatergoer one heroine lothed and in her right mind outceighs even two hundred dancing girls lad only in the mosquito netting of heir native land.

The first of Mme. Borgny Hammer's Ibsen matinees, presented yesterday at the Little Theater, was a pretty be-wildering affair. Mme. Borgny Hammer was presented by Lawrence Clarke, who announced her "Hedia Gabbler" the two B's being the program's idea—as her American debut. It announced her further as "of the National Theater of Christiania Nor-

National Theater of Christiania, Norway," The latter of these statements is probably accurate, though the former is not, but being "of the National Theater of Christiania" did Mme. Borgny Hammer little enough service in acquainting her with what "Hedda" was all about. She played her now in evangelical sweetness, now in a sort of Alpine boredom, once or twice in a tantrum. To a spectator seeing the play for the first time, Hedda must have seemed to be, in so far as she was anything, a sweet woman with fits.

Mme. Borgny Hammer has a fine physical command of a stage, and, at times, great beauty. She delivers lines with at least an intelligent idea of what those lines meam. But of the gift of adding up lines and scenes and totaling a human being, she showed none.

Her supporting company contained two acceptable players, Rolf Fjell and Mercedes Desmore. Another item from the program states: "Mme. Hammer's gowns, General Gabler's portrait, the lighting of the play and the execution and painting of the scenery by the Wits and Fingers Studio."

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ow and again for ballet interludes here are authentically exciting mo-ents, such as the wrestling match be-seen the sultan and the villainous rong man who tries to kill him, the he strong man with gusto. Orvillo aldwell is effective as the heroic sul-an. Gladys Hanson is a splendid fig-ure and Hannah Toback cerried the part of the singing girl pleasantly. But

the superiors of any comedians have appeared at the Columbia season. Others worthy of comdation are Frankie James, a deadly attractive "blues" singer, their Jameleys, remarkable acrobats; of Grinnell and the Seven Musical of Grinnell and the Seven Musical of Grinnell and the statistics and the property to their own advantage.

\*\*Mecca" Is Gay
With Color and
Gorgeous Ballets
Beauty as Well as Lavishness
Marks Opening of Bis
Musical Medularam
Docar Esche at Centur

The Color and Col

f 'Peck-a-Boo' at the Columbia this week is splendid amusement, replete with novelties and clean comedy and skillfully staged. Suggestiveness is not necessary on the stage to make an indience laugh. It shows a low order of skill. While 'Peck-a-Boo' cannot be given an absolutely clean bill of health, it errs only slightly on this core.

Bobby Clark and Paul McCullough do well in their rôles of chief comedians. They are easily the equals, if not the superiors of any comedians have his share. The rich man would who have appeared at the Columbia sue for his rights to the gold, the mem

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